

## Inspired Learning Group of Independent Schools & Nurseries

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**16 March 2020**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the announcement of the Government's move to the 'Delay' stage of their response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus), we wanted to update you on what that means for Buxlow.

If any child has either a high temperature or fever (above 37.8°C) or a new and continuous cough, then they should stay at home for at least seven days. If a child has a temperature of 37.8°C or over parents of pupils will be called to collect them. If a child is absent for these reasons, but is well enough to complete some academic work, then please contact me in the first instance and we will make the necessary arrangements for work to be made available. Parents/guardians can access further information via the 111 online symptom-checker. Until such time as the Government advice changes, we will continue to run the school and nursery with the full expectation that pupils will continue to attend.

The ILG Executives are meeting on a daily basis to respond to the ongoing and evolving situation and to make adaptations to the educational programme that are in the best interests of our school community. In light of the continuing spread of the Coronavirus, the school has reviewed forthcoming events, trips and visits. As a result of this review, the Chair of Governors and I have taken a number of decisions to reduce the likelihood of our pupils being exposed to the virus while off site, and by limiting gatherings of people in close proximity on site, helping to prevent the spread of the virus within our school and the wider community. After much deliberation and reflection, we have decided to cancel and postpone a number of events. These have not been easy decisions to make and we are very much aware that pupils and staff will have been working hard preparing for events and performances for a very long time. We also understand that these decisions will cause disappointment for members of our community and we are very mindful of this. Nevertheless, we feel that we must do all we can to help protect our school community from this virus as far as we are able to and we hope that you can understand and support the decisions we have made. This is an evolving situation and it is impossible to provide you with absolute certainty. However, please find below a summary of our decisions as things currently stand:

All day trips and visits off site are cancelled or postponed until further notice. All school events that would normally have a parental audience e.g. plays, assemblies, dance shows and concerts - are going to go ahead without parental audience. Our Open Days will be held on weekends, which reduces exposure to children from outsiders. Parent Consultations will not go ahead in the normal way. Our contingency plans will involve consultations taking place remotely via telephone. Teachers will telephone parents according to the parents evening schedule. Swimming will be cancelled for the remainder of this term and all PE lessons will be held on the school grounds.

We continue to reinforce the message of good hand hygiene to pupils, to ensure that they have an increased awareness of the challenges posed by Coronavirus and the steps they can take to mitigate the risks to themselves and others. The school communal areas and classroom door handles are also cleansed with anti-bacterial solution throughout the day.

As the situation evolves, and in the event of school/nursery closure, I want to assure you that the school and nursery have been working hard to minimise disruption to your child's education. At Buxlow, we are fully prepared for this eventuality and will be able to maintain a continued provision of education for your child by remote teaching and learning during any closure period. We will rely on technological solutions to set work, receive it back from pupils and give regular feedback. In the event of a closure, the close support of parents will be invaluable in helping to maximise the benefits of this system of work, in highly challenging circumstances. A detailed plan is ready and will be released to families on the announcement of any closure.

The ILG CEO and Heads will meet again tomorrow (17<sup>th</sup> March) to review the ongoing situation and we will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. We would also, of course, ask parents to keep us informed of any significant developments in their family health that may impact the school/nursery community.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding at this time.

Regards,

Mr May  
Headteacher